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Heard in Washington

Senate Probers to Get Eyeful Of Stripper, B-Girl Work Woes



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*News and views gathered from authoritative sources
by the Scripps-Howard Washington staff.*

WASHINGTON, June 9.—Senate investigations subcommittee will take a searching look at the nation's strip-teasers and B-girls—their troubles over working conditions, that is.

Hearing on charges that some night clubs are racketeer-controlled starts Tuesday, before group headed by Sen. John McClellan (D., Ark.). Several exotic dancers will testify; will say they are forced into soliciting drinks and prostitution to hold jobs. There'll be 50 or 60 witnesses altogether.

Spotlight will be on American Guild of Variety Artists, an AFL-CIO group, which represents most legitimate night club stars and also many strippers. President is comedian Joey Adams; administrative head is director Jack Bright, who gets \$31,000 salary.

AGVA headquarters is in New York, but committee focus will be on Baltimore, Miami, Philadelphia, Chicago and other "open" cities—where there are frequent complaints that girls are forced to violate law to hold night club jobs.

Committee wants to know whether a loophole in Landrum-Griffin Act permits a few individuals to control 13,500-member organization with little regard for wishes of rank and file. AGVA is set up as an "autonomous" division of Associated Actors and Artistes of America, doesn't qualify as an international union subject to Landrum-Griffin rules. Hearings are expected to run a week.

Unexpected by-product of the Billie Sol Estes fandango: The Democratic National Committee is getting a new set of bookkeeping machines. National Chairman John Bailey did edge, under the influence of a woman from amongst his colleagues to whom scientist speaks, or by reading his works—so why not get it direct?

Administration's tax reform program may be full of surprises. According to present thinking, administration will propose cracking down on the way profits are taken from stock options and from capital gains. It may propose that capital be held a year instead of six months before lower-gains tax rate applies.

Treasury men also want a crackdown on real estate loopholes. They'll renew demand for withholding of dividend and interest payments if Congress doesn't pass them this year.

Surprises for small taxpayers: While personal income tax rates will be cut, Treasury may suggest that first \$100 of real estate taxes be non-deductible; also first \$100

of interest payments. They may ask a lower ceiling on total charitable contributions that may be claimed.

Business notes: Dividend news is still favorable—despite stock market decline. So far this year, 784 firms have increased dividends, 129 have decreased or omitted them. Last year the figures were 575 up, 233 down . . . Trend to flying coach instead of first class continues. It now accounts for 62 percent of the business. . . . Ford plans Falcon and Comet convertibles for '63 model year. . . . Grocery Manufacturers of America predict we'll spend a record \$80 billion on food in 1962.

Long before Billie Sol Estes operator in Plains states were using the phony land-lease scheme he made famous; were making money from it. One of the first to get caught was Wayne E. Tallman of Kit Carson, Colo. In 1957 he applied to the soil bank the discovery Estes used on the cotton allotment program—that if benefits appeared to be going to family farmers, Washington would never know the difference.

Tallman carved up his 6960-acre farm into six units, "leased" each to a tenant, who put his parcel into the soil bank, turned over to Tallman the \$7 an acre Uncle Sam paid him for not growing crops. Scheme was netting \$17,100 a year—though the soil bank ceiling was supposed to be \$5000 per farm—until Sen. John Williams (R., Del.) exposed it last year. (He was tipped by an outraged Agriculture Department employee.)



World Health Organization predicts Europe will be completely free of malaria by year's end when eight countries complete eradication programs. . . . Department of Agriculture has stepped up production of beach grass seedlings to keep sand from being blown away along storm-damaged Atlantic coast. Late this fall or next spring it will distribute 250,000 seedlings for planting.

Newest game in Washington is a do-it-yourself Jimmy Hoffa investigation. It works like this: Take a copy of Bobby Kennedy's book "The Enemy Within." Flip through the pages, stick a finger in at random—and you can bet the Justice Department is investigating whatever Bobby was writing about on the page your finger hits.

Don't miss "Heard Around City Hall," a staff-written roundup, which appears every Friday in the World-Telegram.